embrace the ſhadow thereof: or ſo much as may palliate its juſt and ſubſtantial *acquirements*. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* i.

It is very difficult to lay down rules for the *acquirement* of ſuch a taſte as that I am here ſpeaking of. The faculty muſt, in ſome degree, be born with us. *Addiſon. Spectator*, N° 409.

ACQUISITION. *n. ſ.* [*acquiſitio*, Lat.]

1. The act of acquiring or gaining.

Each man has but a limited right to the good things of the world; and the natural allowed way, by which he is to compaſs the poſſeſſion of theſe things, is by his own induſtrious *acquiſition* of them. *South's Sermons.*

2. The thing gained; acquirement.

Great Sir, all *acquiſition*
Of glory as of empire, here I lay before
Your royal feet. *Denham's Sophy.*

A ſtate can never arrive to its period in a more deplorable criſis, than when ſome prince lies hovering like a vulture to diſmember its dying carcaſe; by which means it becomes only an *acquiſition* to ſome mighty monarchy, without hopes of a reſurrection. *Swift on the Diſſenſions in Athens and Rome.*

ACQUISITIVE. *adj.* [*acquiſitivus*, Lat.] That which is acquired or gained.

He died not in his *acquiſitive* but in his native ſoil; nature herſelf, as it were, claiming a final intereſt in his body, when fortune had done with him. *Wotton.*

ACQUIST. *n. ſ.* [See ACQUEST.] Acquirement; attainment; gain.

His ſervant he with new *acquiſt*
Of true experience from this great event,
With peace and conſolation hath diſmiſt. *M. Samſon Agon.*

To ACQUIT. *v. a.* [*acquiter*, Fr. See QUIT.]

1. To ſet free.

Ne do I wiſh (for wiſhing were but vain)
To be *acquit* from my continual ſmart;
But joy her tharall for ever to remain,
And yield for pledge my poor captived heart. *Spenſ. Son.* xlii.

2. To clear from a charge of guilt; to abſolve; oppoſed to *condemn*, either ſimply with an accuſative, as, *the jury acquitted him*, or with the particles *from* or *of*, which is more common, before the crime.

If I ſin, then thou markeſt me, and thou wilt not *acquit* me *from* mine iniquity. *Job*, x. 14.

By the ſuffrage of the moſt and beſt he is already *acquitted*, and, by the ſentence of ſome, condemned.
Dryden's Conqueſt of Granada, Dedic.

He that judges, without informing himſelf of the utmoſt that he is capable, cannot *acquit* himſelf *of* judging amiſs. *Locke.*

Neither do I reflect upon the memory of his majeſty, whom I entirely *acquit of* any imputation upon this matter. *Swift.*

3. To clear from any obligation.

Steady to my principles, and not diſpirited with my afflictions, I have, by the bleſſing of God on my endeavours, overcome all difficulties; and, in ſome meaſure, *acquitted* myſelf *of* the debt which I owed the publick, when I undertook this work. *Dryden.*

4. In a ſimilar ſenſe, it is ſaid, *The man hath acquitted himſelf well*; that is, he diſcharged his duty.

ACQUITMENT. *n. ſ.* [from *acquit*.] The ſtate of being acquitted; or act of acquitting.

The word imports properly an *acquitment* or diſcharge of a man upon ſome precedent accuſation, and a full trial and cognizance of his cauſe had thereupon. *South's Sermons.*

ACQUITTAL, *n. ſ* in law, is a deliverance and ſetting free from the ſuſpicion or guiltineſs of an offence. *Cowell.*

The conſtant deſign of both theſe orators, was to drive ſome one particular point, either the condemnation or *acquittal* of an accuſed perſon, a perſuaſive to war, and the like. *Swift.*

To ACQUITTANCE. *v n.* To procure an acquittance; to acquit; a word not in preſent uſe.

But if black ſcandal and foul-fac'd reproach,
Attend the ſequel of your impoſition,
Your meer enforcement ſhall *acquittance* me
From all the impure blots and ſtains thereof. *Shak. Rich.* III.

ACQUITTANCE. *n. ſ.* [from *acquit*.]

1. The act of diſcharging from a debt.

But ſoon ſhall find
Forbearance, no *acquittance*, ere day end
Juſtice ſhall not return, as beauty, ſcorn'd. *Par. Loſt, b.* x.

2. A writing teſtifying the receipt of a debt.

You can produce *acquittances*
For ſuch a ſum, from ſpecial officers
Of Charles his father. *Shakeſp. Love's Labour Loſt.*
They quickly pay their debt, and then
Take no *acquittances*, but pay again. *Donne.*

They had got a worſe trick than that; the ſame man bought and ſold to himſelf, paid the money, and gave the *acquittance*. *Arbuthnot's Hiſt. of John Bull.*

ACRE. *n. ſ.* [Æcpe, Sax.] A quantity of land containing in length forty perches, and four in breadth, or four thouſand eight hundred and forty ſquare yards. *Dict.*

Search ev'ry *acre* in the high-grown field,
And bring him to our eye. *Shakeſpeare's K. Lear.*

ACRID. *adj.* [*acer*, Lat.] Of a hot biting taſte; bitter, ſo as to leave a painful heat upon the organs of taſte.

Bitter and *acrid* differ only by the ſharp particles of the firſt, being involved in a greater quantity of oil than thoſe of the laſt. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

ACRIMONIOUS. *adj.* Abounding with acrimony; ſharp; corroſive.

If gall cannot be rendered *acrimonious*, and bitter of itſelf, then whatever acrimony or amaritude redounds in it, muſt be from the admixture of melancholy. *Harvey on Conſumptions.*

ACRIMONY. *n. ſ.* [*acrimonia*, Lat.]

1. Sharpneſs, corroſiveneſs.

There be plants that have a milk in them when they are cut; as, figs, old lettuce, ſow-thiſtles, ſpurge, *&c.* The cauſe may be an inception of putrefaction: for thoſe milks have all an *acrimony*, though one would think they ſhould be lenitive. *Bacon's Natural Hiſtory*, N° 630.

The chymiſts define ſalt, from ſome of its properties, to be a body fuſible in the fire, congealable again by cold into brittle glebes or cryſtals, ſoluble in water, ſo as to diſappear, not malleable, and having ſomething in it which affects the organs of taſte with a ſenſation of *acrimony* or ſharpneſs. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

2. Sharpneſs of temper, ſeverity, bitterneſs of thought or language.

This made John the Baptiſt ſet himſelf, with ſo much *acrimony* and indignation, to baffle this ſenſeleſs arrogant conceit of theirs, which made them huff at the doctrine of repentance, as a thing below them, and not at all belonging to them. *South.*

ACRITUDE. *n. ſ.* [from *acrid*.] An acrid taſte; a biting heat on the palate.

Green vitriol, mixed with ſome rays of a pale blue, from the ſame place; with its aſtringent and ſweetiſh taſtes, is joined ſome *acritude*. *Grew's Muſæum.*

ACROAMA'TICAL. *adj.* [ἀκροάομαι, Gr. I hear.] Of or pertaining to deep learning; the oppoſite of exoterical.

ACROA'TICKS. *n. ſ.* [Ακροαλικα, Gr.] Ariſtotle's lectures on the more nice and principal parts of philoſophy, to whom none but friends and ſcholars were admitted by him.

ACRO'NYCAL. *adj.* [from ἀκρος, *ſummus*, and νυξ, *nox*; importing the beginning of night.] A term of aſtronomy, applied to the ſtars, of which the riſing and ſetting is called *acronycal*, when they either appear above or ſink below the horizon at the time of ſunſet. It is oppoſed to *coſmical*.

ACRO'NYCALLY. *adv.* [from *acronycal*.] At the acronycal time.

He is tempeſtuous in the ſummer, when he riſes heliacally, and rainy in the winter, when he riſes *acronycally*.
Dryden's Æneid, Dedicat.

ACROSPIRE. *n. ſ.* [from ἀκρος and σπειρα, Gr.] A ſhoot or ſprout from the end of ſeeds before they are put in the ground.

Many corns will ſmilt, or have their pulp turned into a ſubſtance like thick cream; and moſt of thoſe which come without extraordinary pains, will ſend forth their ſubſtance in an *acroſpire*. *Mort. Husbandry.*

ACROSPIRED. *part. adj.* Having ſprouts, or having ſhot out.

For want of turning, when the malt is ſpread on the floor, it comes and ſprouts at both ends, which is called *acroſpired*, and is fit only for ſwine. *Mort. Husbandry.*

ACROSS. *adv.* [from *a* for *at*, or the French *à*, as it is uſed in *à travers*, and *croſs*.] Athwart, laid over ſomething ſo as to croſs it.

The harp hath the concave not along the ſtrings, but *acroſs* the ſtrings; and no harp hath the ſound ſo melting and prolonged as the Iriſh harp. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſt.* N° 223.

This view'd, but not enjoy'd, with arms *acroſs*,
He ſtood, reflecting on his country's loſs. *Dryd. Fables.*

There is a ſet of artiſans, who, by the help of ſeveral poles, which they lay *acroſs* each others ſhoulders, build themſelves up into a kind of pyramid; ſo that you ſee a pile of men in the air of four or five rows riſing one above another. *Addiſ. on Italy.*

An ACROSTICK. *n. ſ.* [from ακρος and στιχος, Gr.] A poem in which the firſt letter of every line being taken, makes up the name of the perſon or thing on which the poem is written.

ACROSTICK. *adj.*

1. That which relates to an acroſtick.
2. That which contains acroſticks.

Leave writing plays, and chooſe for thy command
Some peaceful province in *acroſtick* land:
There thou may'ſt wings diſplay, and altars raiſe,
And torture one poor word ten thouſand ways. *Dryden.*

ACROTERS, or *ACROTERIA. n. ſ.* [In architecture; from ακρος, Gr. the extremity of any body.] Little pedeſtals without baſes, placed at the middle and the two extremes of pediments, ſometimes ſerving to ſupport ſtatues.

To ACT. *v. a.* [*agc*, *actum*, Lat.]

1. To be in action, not to reſt.

He hangs between in doubt to *act* or reſt. *Pope's Eſſ. on Man.*

2. To perform the proper functions.

Albeit the will is not capable of being compelled to any of its actings, yet it is capable of being made to *act* with more or leſs difficulty, according to the different impreſſions it receives from motives or objects. *South's Sermons.*

'Tis

3. To practiſe the arts or duties of life; to conduct one's ſelf.

'Tis plain, that ſhe who, for a kingdom now,
Would ſacrifice her love, and break her vow,
Not out of love, but intereſt, *acts* alone,
And would, ev'n in my arms, lie thinking of a throne.
Dryden's Conqueſt of Granada.

The deſire of happineſs, and the conſtraint it puts upon us to *act* for it, no body accounts an abridgment of liberty. *Locke.*

The ſplendour of his office, is the token of that ſacred character which he inwardly bears: and one of theſe ought conſtantly to put him in mind of the other, and excite him to *act* up to it, through the whole courſe of his adminiſtration.
Atterbury's Sermons.

It is our part and duty to co-operate with this grace, vigorouſly to exert thoſe powers, and *act* up to thoſe advantages to which it reſtores us. He has given eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. *Rogers's Sermons.*

4. To bear a borrowed character, as, a ſtage-player.

Honour and ſhame from no condition riſe;
Act well your part, there all the honour lies.
Pope's Eſſay on Man, ep. 4. l. 193.

5. To counterfeit; to feign by action.

His former trembling once again renew'd,
With *acted* fear the villain thus purſu'd. *Dryd. Æneid.* 2.

6. To produce effects in ſome paſſive ſubject.

Hence 'tis we wait the wond'rous cauſe to find
How body *acts* upon impaſſive mind. *Garth's Diſpenſary.*

The ſtomach, the inteſtines, the muſcles of the lower belly, all *act* upon the aliment; beſides, the chyle is not ſucked, but ſqueezed into the mouths of the lacteals, by the action of the fibres of the guts. *Arbuthnot on Aliments.*

7. To actuate; to put in motion; to regulate the movements.

Moſt people in the world are *acted* by levity and humour, by ſtrange and irrational changes. *South's Sermons.*

Perhaps they are as proud as Lucifer, as covetous as Demas, as falſe as Judas, and, in the whole courſe of their converſation, *act*, and are *acted*, not by devotion, but deſign. *Idem.*

We ſuppoſe two diſtinct incommunicable conſciouſneſſes *acting* the ſame body, the one conſtantly by day, the other by night; and, on the other ſide, the ſame conſciouſneſs *acting* by intervals two diſtinct bodies. *Locke.*

ACT. *n. ſ.* [*actum*, Lat.]

1. Something done; a deed; an exploit, whether good or ill.

I've done enough. A lower place, not well,
May make too great an *act*: for learn this, Silius,
Better to leave undone than by our deed
Acquire too high a fame, when he, we ſerve, 's away.
Shakeſpeare's Antony and Cleopatra.

The conſcious wretch muſt all his *acts* reveal;
Loth to confeſs, unable to conceal;
From the firſt moment of his vital breath,
To his laſt hour of unrepenting death. *Dryd. Æneid* vi.

2. Agency; the power of producing an effect.

I will try the forces
Of theſe thy compounds on ſuch creatures as
We count not worth the hanging; but none human;
To try the vigour of them, and apply
Allayments to their *act*; and by them gather
Their ſeveral virtues and effects. *Shakeſpeare's Cymbeline.*

3. Action; the performance of exploits; production of effects.

'Tis ſo much in your nature to do good, that your life is but one continued *act* of placing benefits on many, as the ſun is always carrying his light to ſome part or other of the world.
Dryden's Fables, Dedicat.

Who forth from nothing call'd this comely frame,
His will and *act*, his word and work the ſame. *Prior.*

4. The doing of ſome particular thing; a ſtep taken; a meaſure executed.

This *act* perſuades me,
That this remotion of the duke and her,
Is practice only. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*

5. A ſtate of action.

The ſeeds of herbs and plants at the firſt are not in *act*, but in poſſibility that which they afterwards grow to be. *Hooker.*

God alone excepted, who actually and everlaſtingly is whatſoever he may be, and which cannot hereafter be that which now he is not; all other things beſides are ſomewhat in poſſibility, which as yet they are not in *act*. *Hooker, b.* i.

Sure they're conſcious
Of ſome intended miſchief, and are fled
To put it into *act*. *Denham's Sophy.*

Her legs were buſkin'd, and the leſt before;
In *act* to ſhoot, a ſilver bow ſhe bore. *Dryd. Fables.*

6. A part of a play, during which the action proceeds without interruption.

Many never doubt but the whole condition required by Chriſt, the repentance he came to preach, will, in that laſt ſcene of their laſt *act*, immediately before the exit, be as opportunely and acceptably performed, as at any other point of their lives. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

Five *acts* are the juſt meaſure of a play. *Roſcommon.*

7. A decree of a court of juſtice, or edict of a legiſlature.

They make edicts for uſury to ſupport uſurers, repeal daily any wholeſome *act* eſtabliſhed againſt the rich, and provide more piercing ſtatutes daily to chain up and reſtrain the poor.
Shakeſpeare's Coriolanus.

You that are king, though he do wear the crown,
Have caus'd him, by new *act* of parliament,
To blot out me. *Shakeſpeare's Henry* VI. *p.* iii.

8. Record of judicial proceedings.

Judicial *acts* are all thoſe matters, which relate to judicial proceedings; and being reduced into writing by a publick notary, are recorded by the authority of the judge.
Ayliffe's Parergon Juris Canonici.

ACTION. *n. ſ.* [*actio*, Fr. *actio*, Lat.]

1. The quality or ſtate of acting, oppoſite to *reſt*.

O noble Engliſh, that could entertain
With half their forces the full power of France;
And let another half ſtand laughing by,
All out of work, and cold for *action*. *Shakeſp. Henry* V.

2. An act or thing done; a deed.

This *action*, I now go on,
Is for my better grace. *Shakeſpeare's Winter's Tale.*

God never accepts a good inclination inſtead of a good *action*, where that *action* may be done; nay, ſo much the contrary, that, if a good inclination be not ſeconded by a good *action*, the want of that *action* is made ſo much the more criminal and inexcuſable. *South's Sermons.*

3. Agency, operation.

It is better therefore, that the earth ſhould move about its own center, and make thoſe uſeful viciſſitudes of night and day, than expoſe always the ſame ſide to the *action* of the ſun.
Bentley's Sermons.

He has ſettled laws, and laid down rules, conformable to which natural bodies are governed in their *actions* upon one another. *Cheyne's Philoſophical Principles.*

4. The ſeries of events repreſented in a fable

This *action* ſhould have three qualifications. Firſt, it ſhould be but one *action*; ſecondly, it ſhould be an entire *action*; and, thirdly, it ſhould be a great *action*. *Addiſ. Spectat.* N° 267.

5. Geſticulation; the accordance of the motions of the body with the words ſpoken; a part of oratory.

—He that ſpeaks doth gripe the hearer's wriſt,
While he that hears makes fearful *action*
With wrinkled brows. *Shakeſp. King John.*

Our orators are obſerved to make uſe of leſs geſture or *action* than thoſe of other countries. *Addiſon. Spectat.* N° 407.

6. [In law.] It is uſed with the prepoſition *againſt* before the perſon, and *for* before the thing.

Actions are perſonal, real, and mixt: *action* perſonal belongs to a man *againſt* another, by reaſon of any contract, offence, or cauſe, of like force with a contract or offence made or done by him or ſome other, for whoſe fact he is to anſwer. *Action* real is given to any man *againſt* another, that poſſeſſes the thing required or ſued for in his own name, and no other man's. *Action* mixt is that which lies as well *againſt* or *for* the thing which we ſeek, as *againſt* the perſon that hath it; called *mixt*, becauſe it hath a mixt reſpect both to the thing and to the perſon.

Action is divided into civil, penal, and mixt. *Action* civil is that which tends only to the recovery of that which is due to us; as, a ſum of money formerly lent. *Action* penal is that which aims at ſome penalty or puniſhment in the party ſued, be it corporal or pecuniary: as, in common law, the next friends of a man felonioufly ſlain ſhall purſue the law *againſt* the murderer. *Action* mixt is that which ſeeks both the thing whereof we are deprived, and a penalty alſo for the unjuſt detaining of the ſame.

Action upon the caſe, is an *action* given for redreſs of wrongs done without force *againſt* any man, by law not ſpecially provided for.

Action upon the ſtatute, is an *action* brought *againſt* a man upon breach of a ſtatute. *Cowell.*

There was never man could have a juſter *action againſt* filthy fortune than I, ſince all other things being granted me, her blindneſs is the only lett. *Sidney.*

For our reward then,
Firſt, all our debts are paid; dangers of law,
Actions, decrees, judgments, *againſt* us quitted.
Ben. Johnſon's Catiline.

7. In the plural, in France, the ſame as *ſtocks* in England.

ACTIONABLE. *adj.* [from *action*.] That which admits an action in law to be brought againſt it; puniſhable.

After he had been thus, as a man would think, quite extinguiſhed, his proceſs was formed; whereby he was found guilty of nought elſe, that I could learn, which was *actionable*, but of ambition. *Howel's Vocal Foreſt.*

ACTIONARY, or ACTIONIST. *n. ſ.* [from *action*.] One that has a ſhare in *actions* or ſtocks.

ACTION-TAKING. *adj.* Accuſtomed to reſent by means of law; litigious.

A knave, a raſcal, an eater of broken meats, a filthy worſted-ſtocking knave; a lily-liver'd *action-taking* knave.
Shakeſpeare's King Lear.

ACTITATION. *n. ſ.* [from *actito*, Lat.] Action quick and frequent. *Dict.*

To